

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer to control the position of a visual pointer using an eye tracking apparatus by:

moving a visual pointer from a first location to a second location that corresponds to a user's eye orientation based on input received from the eye tracking apparatus; and

providing a visual indicator between the first location and the second location.

2. A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein the visual indicator comprises a substantially linear display element.

3. A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein the visual indicator comprises a substantially circular display element.

4. A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein the visual indicator provides visual continuity between the first location and the second location of the visual pointer.

5. A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein the visual indicator indicates the first location of the visual pointer and the second location of the visual pointer.

6. A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein the visual indicator provides a spatial relationship between the first location of the visual pointer and the second location of the visual pointer.

7. A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein the visual indicator comprises a graphic animation of a spatial relationship between the first location and the second location of the visual pointer.
8. A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein moving the visual pointer to the second location is based on inferring user intent from the user's detected eye orientation.
9. A computer program product as in claim 1, wherein a reading guide is provided to a user for assisting the user in reading displayed text.
10. A computer program product as in claim 9, wherein the reading guide comprises an open bracket.
11. A computer program product as in claim 9, wherein the reading guide is positioned in a margin of the displayed text.
12. A computer program product as in claim 9, wherein the reading guide is positioned to the left of a line being read.
13. A computer program product as in claim 9, wherein the reading guide scrolls lines of displayed text in response to the user's eye orientation based on input received from the eye tracking apparatus.
14. A computer program product as in claim 9, wherein the reading guide is changed to a visual pointer based on sensing an eye movement of the user.
15. A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a visual display output coupled to said processor;

said processor comprising an input for receiving a signal from an eye tracking apparatus, the eye tracking apparatus for monitoring a user's eye movements, and said processor providing a signal at said visual display output for moving a visual pointer from a first location to a second location corresponding to the user's eye orientation, and generating a visual indicator between the first location and the second location.

16. A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the visual indicator comprises a substantially linear display element.

17. A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the visual indicator comprises a reading guide for assisting the user in reading displayed text.

18. A computer implemented method for eye track assisted pointer positioning comprising:

operating an eye tracking apparatus to monitor a user's eye movements as the user views a visual display;

detecting the user's eye orientation, relative to the visual display;

moving a visual pointer from a first location to a second location of the visual display that corresponds to the user's eye orientation, and

providing a visual indicator in the visual display between the first location and the second

location.

19. A computer implemented method as in claim 18, wherein the visual indicator comprises a substantially linear display element.

20. A computer implemented method as in claim 18, wherein the visual indicator comprises a substantially circular display element.

21. A computer implemented method as in claim 18, wherein the visual indicator provides visual continuity between the first location and the second location of the visual pointer.

22. A computer implemented method as in claim 18, wherein moving the visual pointer to the second location is based on inferring user intent from the user's detected eye orientation.

23. A computer implemented method for eye track assisted pointer positioning comprising:

operating an eye tracking apparatus to monitor a user's eye movements as the user views a visual display;

detecting the user's eye orientation, relative to the visual display;

providing a reading guide to the user for assisting the user in reading displayed text; and

moving the reading guide from a first location to a second location of the visual display that corresponds to the user's eye orientation.

24. A computer implemented method as in claim 23, wherein the reading guide comprises an open bracket.

25. A computer implemented method as in claim 23, wherein the reading guide is positioned in a margin of the displayed text.

26. A computer implemented method as in claim 23, wherein the reading guide scrolls lines of displayed text in response to the user's eye orientation based on input received from the eye tracking apparatus.

27. A computer implemented method as in claim 23, wherein the reading guide is changed to a visual pointer based on sensing an eye movement of the user.